

COMING FULL CIRCLE TESTING AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

Traffic circles have a long history in the United States. The first traffic circle in the U.S. was Columbus Circle in New York City, which opened in 1905. What exactly is a traffic circle? Traffic circles are circular islands effective at reducing traffic speeds and the number and severity of collisions at intersections.

Studies have shown crash rates at intersections with traffic circles are significantly lower than at intersections with stop sign control.

The City is currently testing a temporary traffic circle made from recycled rubber tires at the intersection

of 101st Street and Utah Avenue. The intersection averages about one reported accident per year.

According to Traffic Management Coordinator Paul Jarvis, while the temporary circle is in place, City staff will be collecting data about how motorists respond to the intersection change.

“Our goal with the traffic circle is to reduce accidents, increase safety and minimize any impact, including noise and air pollution, to area residents,” Jarvis said.



The trial installation will be kept in place through the first snowfall to see how it operates in winter conditions.

For more information, contact Civil Engineer Amy Marohn at 952-563-4532.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TRAFFIC CIRCLE.

IN THE SOUTH LOOP FAMILIAR DESTINATION IS REBRANDED WITH SUSTAINABILITY IN MIND

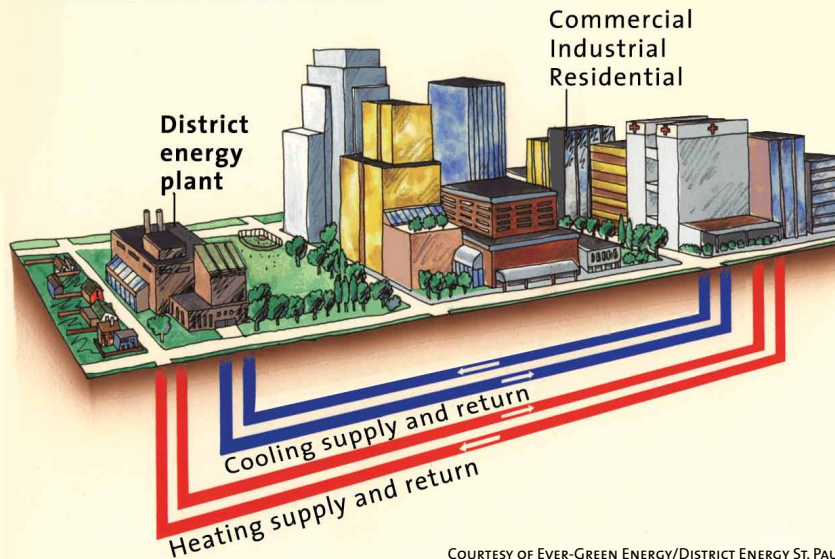
Urban. Energetic. Bustling. Transit-oriented. Sustainable. These are the words people will use to describe the South Loop District. South Loop is the new name for a familiar destination in east Bloomington that extends from I-494 on the north and TH 77 on the west to the Minnesota River on the south and east.

The City is developing a district plan to transform South Loop into a model for sustainable commerce and living. A major component of sustainability is access to efficient electric power and heating and cooling for buildings. Future development in the district will be accelerated by energy efficiency and conservation strategies that make the location a cost-effective choice for businesses and residents.

As part of a separate but concurrent study, the City is exploring the possibility of using district energy to supply efficient heating and cooling in the South Loop District.

Both downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul are served by district energy plants. Using renewable energy from a

EXAMPLE: CENTRALIZED COMMUNITY HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM



combined heat and power plant, District Energy St. Paul simultaneously produces about 65 megawatts of thermal energy for District Energy and 25 megawatts of electricity for Xcel Energy. The company currently heats more than 185 buildings and 300 single-family homes and cools more than 95 buildings in downtown St. Paul and adjacent areas.

Using similar technology, district energy could heat and cool the entire South Loop District. *See diagram above.*

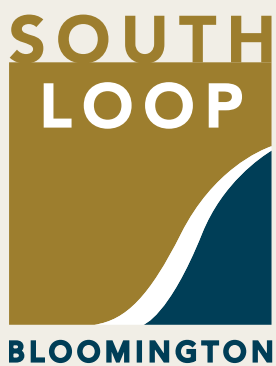
The City's study hopes to identify ways for both new and existing development to increase efficiency,

reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stabilize or reduce fuel and equipment costs.

Open houses were held in August to keep the community abreast of the progress on the South Loop District Plan and to share information with residents and businesses. The open houses were attended by more than 200 people.

Final recommendations and concepts for the district plan will be presented to the City Council early in 2011. For more information, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.



NEW NAME, NEW LOGO

The name South Loop puts a fresh face on an area that contains two-thirds of Bloomington's development potential over the next 40 years.

South Loop has many notable assets such as an international airport, a national wildlife refuge, light rail and bus transit, the Mall of America and Bloomington Central Station development.

INSIDE

OCTOBER 2010

- PAGE 2** Mayor's column.
PAGE 3 News you can use.
PAGE 4 Earth Action Heroes.
PAGE 5 People2People.
PAGE 6 For your safety.
PAGE 7 Arts and community.
PAGE 8 Get out and vote.

When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.

FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES VISIT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION



Saturday, October 9, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Station 1 - 10 West 95th Street.
- Station 2 - 10601 Xerxes Ave South.
- Station 3 - 2050 East 86th Street.
- Station 4 - 4201 West 84th Street.
- Station 5 - 10540 Bush Lake Road.
- Station 6 - 8601 Lakeview Road.

Highlights for this year's open houses include free t-shirts, coloring books and stickers, prizes, safety demonstrations at Station 1, Police and Public Works vehicle displays.

For more information, call Roxy Markkanen at 952-563-4801.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



This summer's National Night Out event produced 372 neighborhood parties, up from 352 last year. The parties drew visits from Police, Fire and other City representatives. In addition, 11 fire trucks and 4 Allina ambulances attended a number of parties. Donations were made by Toro, Bloomington Lock and Safe, Cub, Rainbow, Walmart and Target. Outback Steakhouse catered a neighborhood party for 50 people. For more information, call Crime Prevention Coordinator Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, OCTOBER 2010

Presort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mpls., MN
Permit
#2293

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027